



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT  
Atty. Docket No.: 101.0053-00000  
Express Mail Label No. EL399233465US

3-30-00

16/d  
(NE)

In re application of:

Gary K. Michelson, M.D.

Serial No: 08/480,908

Filed: June 7, 1995

For: THREADED FRUSTO-CONICAL  
INTERBODY SPINAL FUSION  
IMPLANT

Art Unit: 3764

Examiner: Brown, M.

Box AF  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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MAR 27 2001  
TO STC MAIL ROOM

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated October 1, 1999, Paper No.

14.

Please amend the Application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (twice amended) An interbody spinal fusion implant for insertion across a disc space between adjacent [vertebrae] vertebral bodies of a human spine, [the] said implant comprising a body having an insertion end, a trailing end, a length between said ends, and an outer surface including a thread for engaging said implant to the adjacent [vertebrae of the spine] vertebral bodies, the outer locus of said thread forming a substantially frusto-conical configuration along at least a portion of the length of said implant nearer said trailing end than said insertion end.
2. (amended) The implant of claim 1 in which said body has a substantially frusto-conical configuration along a sufficient portion of said implant that is adapted to contact the adjacent